



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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NEWS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 144 months in prison for Violent Shooting of Unarmed District Man near Ballou Senior High School

WASHINGTON - A 19-year-old District man, Ferris Alston, was sentenced yesterday by Superior Court Judge Ronna L. Beck to 144 months of incarceration for a violent shooting of an unarmed 22-year-old District man that Alston committed on August 3, 2008, behind Ballou Senior High School, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced.

On January 30, 2009, Alston, of the 300 block of Parkland Street, SE, pled guilty to two felonies, Assault with Intent to Kill and Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, for the August 3, 2008 shooting. Judge Beck sentenced Alston to the maximum possible sentence under the Guidelines for what was acknowledged to be a would-be execution. Alston was also ordered to serve three (3) years of supervised release following his prison sentence.

According to the government's evidence and the defendant's admitted conduct, on August 3, 2008, in broad daylight at approximately 1:40 p.m., in the 3600 block of 2nd Street, SE (PSA 705), directly behind Ballou Senior High School, in Washington, D.C., Alston shot the 22-year-old victim multiple times in cold-blood. Alston had an ongoing feud with the victim that carried on throughout the summer of 2008, culminating with Alston and an unknown accomplice ambushing the victim on August 3rd and shooting him multiple times. Alston exited, along with an armed accomplice, from a vehicle, pointed a loaded handgun at the victim and began firing. While the victim attempted to run away, he was struck in the right leg with bullets and immediately fell to the ground. The victim managed to crawl to a nearby parked car and partially conceal his body under the vehicle. Alston and his accomplice approached the car and unleashed a hail of bullets, at point-blank range, into the

unconcealed portions of the victim's body. Crime scene evidence showed that Alston and his accomplice fired over 30 shots between them before fleeing the scene. The victim underwent emergency surgery and observation where it was determined that he suffered from at least 16 separate gun shot wounds. The victim remained hospitalized as a result of his injuries for several months and suffers from permanent damage to his legs and vital organs.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Arthur Reed, John Bolden, and Angelo Battle of the Seventh District; Detectives Thomas Braxton and George Blackwell of the Violent Crime Branch; Sergeants John Podorski and Eric Levenberry; Officers Raymond Hardaway, Michael Lybarger, Joanne Ivy, Gregory Arrington; and MPD Crime Scene Officers Carmen Pagan and Trina Bruce, who assisted in the investigation of this case. Mr. Phillips additionally praised the work of Legal Assistant Baretta Francis and Paralegal Supervisor Wanda Trice. Mr. Phillips also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Erin B. Andrews who investigated and prosecuted this case.

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